

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC

**May 16, 2006**

**5:30 PM**

Chairman Osborne called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Osborne, O'Neil, Shea, Roy, Long

Messrs.: J. Hoben, Lt. Valenti, T. Arnold, F. Thomas

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Bernard Gamache requesting 15 parking permits in the Middle Street Parking Lot.

Alderman O'Neil stated this must be the fifth or sixth request we have had in the same parking lot and in all cases I think we have received and filed waiting for the Parking Manager to come on board. Do we know if anyone has created a database or anything to track the people who had requested these? It probably wouldn't be a bad idea.

Chairman Osborne stated I guess the City Clerk's Office could do that.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded we can work on that.

Alderman O'Neil moved to receive and file. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated I would ask that...unofficially I had asked Mr. MacKenzie and discussed with the Mayor's Office, part of the parking study had a rebuild of I believe the street they used was Merrimack Street. That layout can be used on a number of streets, including Market and Middle Streets so I will ask this Committee as a follow-up motion to ask the Planning Department to work with the Mayor's Office and possibly the parking study to put a cost on the rebuild or change of the parking designs on Middle and Market Street. A lot of the requests we are getting come from people who would like to use the Middle Street lot and I believe there are an additional 60-70 car spaces that we could create by using the format that came out of the parking study. I would ask that we formally ask the

Planning Department to work with the Mayor's Office and possibly myself to make that happen.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think that the rebuild of the street or any of that would fall to Mr. Thomas, not the Planning Department.

Alderman Roy replied I was looking more for the cost and feasibility versus the actual construction.

Alderman O'Neil responded well the cost would come from Frank Thomas.

Alderman Roy stated I am fine with whomever it goes to. I have made the request informally but as we get further and further down the road with the Middle Street lot not being opened up if we can make some small improvements to Middle and Market...potentially it is low cost and involves lining and signage and we may be able to pick up another 60-80 spaces.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated perhaps you could refer that to Planning and Highway and ask that they give you a report. Do you want to first take a vote on the receive and file and then take this motion or are you amending the current motion on the floor?

Alderman Roy stated no we can do it separately.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote on the motion to receive and file the request from Mr. Gamache. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion to request that City staff (Highway, MEDO and Planning) come up with a cost to make improvements to Middle and Market Streets as outlined in the parking study and report back to the Committee. Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Discussion of vehicle speed on Rhode Island Avenue as requested by Alderman Duval.

Alderman Duval stated Rhode Island Avenue rests between upper Bridge Street and upper Hanover Street and was resurfaced a couple of years ago and a number of neighbors have repeatedly expressed concern relative to speed of traffic. As you are probably aware, since we have had greater development on upper Wellington Road and upper Hanover Street with the plaza years ago they have

tremendous cut through traffic on those streets, in particular, Rhode Island Avenue experiences a tremendous volume of traffic. The street, if you are familiar with it at all, is very narrow. It is winding and extremely hilly. Alderman O'Neil probably has a pretty good reference point with the condition that exists on that road but the street currently is not lined. I have spoken with the Traffic and Highway Department about putting a line down the middle of the street so that at least there is a division between the two-way traffic and also adding a stop sign at the intersection of Lacourse and Rhode Island Avenue and New York Street and Rhode Island Avenue. I have discussed this with residents on Rhode Island Avenue and they feel that it would have a positive effect on mitigating the speed issues that currently exist. I think doing both would certainly have a positive effect and that is why I have asked the Committee to consent to those requests.

Chairman Osborne called Jim Hoben forward. Jim how many of these streets connect from Bridge Street Extension to Hanover Street?

Jim Hoben, Deputy Traffic Director, stated it runs from Bridge Street Extension to Hanover. The width of the street varies from 30' down to 24'.

Chairman Osborne asked how many streets are there.

Mr. Hoben answered I believe there are three or four.

Chairman Osborne asked do any of the other streets have yellow lines.

Mr. Hoben answered not in that area.

Chairman Osborne asked what do you think about doing such seeing there is a lot of cut through.

Mr. Hoben answered it is not so much cut throughs as it is a safety factor because of the hills. You have blind spots on those hills.

Chairman Osborne asked would that take a lot out of the department if you were to yellow line those particular streets.

Mr. Hoben answered because of the width we were going to go with a single centerline.

Chairman Osborne asked how much would that take out of your department by you doing this.

Mr. Hoben answered we have the paint to cover it.

Chairman Osborne asked what about time and help and people. You have no problem with that?

Mr. Hoben answered no. We would just put it on the list and go with it.

Chairman Osborne asked so there are four streets like that. I was thinking you might as well do them all and get it over with.

Mr. Hoben answered well really they are narrow side streets and I am not sure if that problem occurs on all streets.

Chairman Osborne stated well using your judgement and the Alderman's judgement I think it should be looked at anyway. You could do a one time job there and let it be done. Does that sound all right Alderman Duval?

Alderman Duval responded I appreciate the Chairman's consideration. I would certainly like an opportunity to discuss the advantages of lining the other streets. This one is a little bit special because as Mr. Hoben has pointed out it really narrows at certain points in the street where it becomes really hilly as well so it does present treacherous situations that the other streets don't present.

Mr. Hoben stated I can meet the Alderman there on-site and we can review it.

Alderman Duval stated certainly and I think this would be the place to start – Rhode Island Avenue.

Chairman Osborne stated so we will take a motion on this one tonight and we will look at the other ones.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if Alderman Duval would be open to this but my personal experience is that if you talk to people on streets where they put in stop signs to try to control speed all that happens is they speed between the signs. If you talk to the people...we went through a phase where we were putting in speed bumps down in Westwood and Donahue and if you talk to those people the speed bumps are in and they speed between the speed bumps. I really would like to suggest to you, just from my personal experience, there is nothing like getting a speeding ticket. I would...if you believe that speed is a significant issue there work with Lt. Valenti. They have these devices called speed counters where they get a feel for what time of the day and what day of the week the violations are occurring and then they go out and write a whole lot of tickets. I think you may find it a more effective tool than putting up stop signs. That is just my personal observation. I have talked to people on Belmont Street not far from your home,

north all the way up to Smyth Road and all they tell me is that they speed between the stop signs. I think enforcement is the best tool we can use to slow people down and I think...I don't know if Lt. Valenti will back this up but generally speaking when they do a neighborhood enforcement they generally write a lot of tickets to people living in that neighborhood. Am I correct? We found that all over the City. If I could suggest that maybe you try that and see what the results are I think you may find that more effective than putting up stop signs and painting lines.

Alderman Shea stated maybe Lt. Valenti could come up for a second. I would be interested to know whether when you put stop signs on one street what the impact might be on the other...let's say in this case two other streets or three other streets that are in that location? Would people tend to avoid that street and then obviously over use the others or is it something that has no impact?

Lt. Valenti responded I don't think people would take another street to avoid a stop sign. They may take another street to avoid a speed trap if they know it is there but as far as a stop sign goes no I don't find that we see a lot of traffic going to a different street because of a stop sign.

Mr. Hoben stated the stop signs that the Alderman requested are side street stop signs. They are not on Rhode Island Avenue. They are to stop the traffic on the side streets. It is not speed control, it is safety.

Alderman Shea replied I realize that but what I am asking is in different areas of the City when a stop sign is put up...for instance in my ward a stop sign was put on Hall Street so people avoided Hall Street in order to go on Belmont Street. So the impact then was that you had to put a stop sign on Belmont because people weren't using Hall anymore. I am just concerned. I am not against this but I am concerned about the fact that when a stop sign is put on Street A, does Street B right next to it or near it become overused because basically people want to avoid that particular stop, particularly when they are in a hurry in the mornings and so forth? You are saying in essence that there is no impact.

Mr. Hoben responded in this case there isn't but in other cases there is. When you are using it for speed control.

Alderman Shea asked so in this case if there were stop signs put up it wouldn't have a negative impact.

Mr. Hoben answered no it would not.

Alderman O'Neil asked so the stop signs are on the side streets.

Alderman Duval stated that is what I was going to speak to Mr. Hoben about. There is a little bit of disagreement here. My request of Traffic and the request from residents of Rhode Island Avenue was to serve as a speed deterrent. I think and it was my understanding anyway and I apologize for any confusion but I was quite certain that I requested stop signs to be installed on Rhode Island Avenue to slow the speed of traffic on Rhode Island Avenue. That is why we were using Lacourse and New York Street as the intersecting streets for which to place the stop signs.

Mr. Hoben responded I misunderstood you Alderman.

Alderman Duval stated if I can just respond. I think Alderman O'Neil and I have had this discussion before on another speed issue on Bridge Street. I think really the way I look at it we have to do everything in our power to try to reduce the speed of vehicles and I think we do what we can. I think speed enforcement is a good approach and I talked with Lt. Valenti about that and I hope as a result of this budget process we will be able to get additional funding and perhaps more officers in Traffic so that we can enhance our efforts in traffic. I think we do everything in our power and I think certainly in this situation a line going down the center of Rhode Island Avenue, for the cost of it which Mr. Hoben pointed out is fairly minimal, I think is a step in the right direction. It is not going to cure the speed of vehicle problem in its entirety but I think it is part and parcel of what we have to do to address this and I think it would bring some comfort to the ward residents that live on Rhode Island Avenue who really see this as being out of control. Certainly speed enforcement is going to be an issue and I will be calling the Police Department routinely for these areas in the coming months.

Chairman Osborne asked you have a request in here on the traffic agenda don't you for stop signs. Do you want to discuss these now?

Alderman Duval asked Mr. Hoben is there an issue with placing stop signs at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and New York and Lacourse.

Mr. Hoben answered if you use it for speed control the motorists tend to disregard them. The lieutenant here will tell you the same thing.

Alderman O'Neil stated this was kind of the trend here for many a year – it was putting in stop signs to try to control speed. This is my opinion. It isn't an effective tool. Again, I can remember doing the speed bumps. We did that on three City streets and never did it again because the residents will tell you they speed between the speed bumps. I would rather see a commitment to enforcement. We had a similar trend with trying to put in traffic signals to control

speed. Enforcement is our best tool. Having been a former resident of Ward 5 and living on Lake Avenue the only way that Lake Avenue got slowed down was by police officers writing ticket after ticket after ticket at the bottom of that first hill or the bottom of the second hill. Lt. Valenti can probably back that up. They wrote a lot of tickets and that slowed the traffic on Lake Avenue down. That is my opinion.

Alderman Duval stated I think at this point what I would like to do is take the opportunity to discuss further with Mr. Hoben what the options are. I would certainly like the Committee to approve tonight the solid yellow line down Rhode Island Avenue and then we will consider it further in the weeks and months to come.

Chairman Osborne stated getting back to the stop signs, what is the story with Pennsylvania Avenue. Does that go right through to Bridge Street Extension?

Mr. Hoben responded I am not sure about that one.

Chairman Osborne stated I had a friend of mine who over the years kept complaining about the speed on that street. I guess he was looking for stop signs as well up there. We probably should take a study on the streets running that way to see what the story is and then come back. Do we have a motion on the yellow lines?

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to approve the painting of a single yellow line on Rhode Island Avenue from Hanover Street to Bridge Street.

Chairman Osborne advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

**CROSSWALK:**

On Sylvester Street, south of Varney Street  
Alderman Smith

**STOP SIGNS:**

On Hobart Street at Hanover Street, NWC  
Alderman Pinard

On Theresa Court, southern terminus at South Beech Street, SWC  
On Theresa Court, northern terminus at South Beech Street, SWC  
Alderman Garrity

On Dartmouth Street at Goffe Street, NEC, SWC (Backups)  
On Gove Street at Rockland Avenue, NEC  
On Lamprey Street at Rockland Avenue, NEC  
On Shirley Hill Road at Rockland Avenue, NEC  
Alderman Smith

**30-MINUTE PARKING:**

On McQuesten Street, north side, from a point 30 feet east of Second Street to a point 36 feet easterly  
Alderman Smith

**RESCIND – NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On McQuesten Street, north side, from Second Street to a point 65 feet easterly  
(ORD. 8101)  
Alderman Smith

**NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On Old Wellington Road, south side, from Eastern Avenue to Karatzas Avenue  
Alderman Pinard

On Taylor Street, west side, from Valley to a point 125 feet south  
On Taylor Street, west side, from a point 205 feet south of Valley to Hayward St.  
Alderman Shea

**NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS (EMERGENCY ACT):**

On Roysan Street, both sides, from Lois Street to Jeannine Street  
Alderman DeVries

**NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS:**

On Joshua Drive, north side, from Hoyt Street to Roysan Street  
On Joshua Drive, south side, from Roysan Street to the west property line of 25 Joshua Drive  
On Joshua Drive, south side, from east property line of 25 Joshua Drive  
Alderman DeVries

**NO PARKING – DRIVEWAY:**

19-23 Country Club Drive  
Alderman Forest

**RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME:**

On Taylor Street, west side, from Valley Street to Hayward Street  
Alderman Shea  
On South Jewett Street, west side, from Constant Street to Weston Road



(ORD. 8570/Duplicate on Record)  
Alderman DeVries

**RESCIND NO PARKING (7AM-3PM/MON-FRI):**

On South Jewett Street, east side, from Weston Road to a point 30 feet south of  
Seames Drive (ORD. 8603)  
Alderman DeVries

**RESCIND NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS:**

On Joshua Drive, both sides, from Roysan Street to Hoyt Street (ORD. 9028)  
Alderman DeVries

**RESCIND BUS STOP DURING SCHOOL HOURS:**

On South Jewett Street, east side, from a point 30 feet south of Seames Drive to a  
point 50 feet south of Maurice Street (ORD. 7356)  
Alderman DeVries

**RESCIND PARKING FOR POLICE VEHICLES ONLY:**

On Wilson Street, east side, from a point 50 feet north of Harvard Street to a point  
50 feet northerly (ORD. 8114)  
Alderman Shea

**NO RIGHT TURN ON RED:**

On Varney Street at South Main Street (westbound)  
Alderman Smith

**SINGLE YELLOW PAINTED LINE:**

On Rhode Island Avenue from Hanover Street to Bridge Street  
Alderman Duval

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to  
approve the traffic agenda with the addendum as handed out by the Clerk.

**STOP SIGNS**

On Lacourse Street at Rhode Island Avenue, NEC  
On New York Street at Rhode Island Avenue, SWC  
Alderman Duval

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Long it was voted to  
table the stop sign requests.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to a request of Paul Blouin, Auto City of Manchester, for sign installation on Depot Street, north side, west of Canal Street.

Alderman Long stated I got a call from Mr. Blouin with respect to this. He had also spoken to Mr. Hoben. What is happening is his business is not getting...it is not that he is looking to advertise but it is people who are going to his business aren't able to find it. It is behind WMUR and nobody knows he is behind there even though he gives them directions. Maybe I can defer this to Mr. Hoben.

Mr. Hoben stated Mr. Blouin contacted me and in return I had him speak to Alderman Long. Mr. Blouin is here if you want to talk to him.

Alderman O'Neil asked is Alderman Long in favor of passing this.

Alderman Long moved to approve the request. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't think we need to debate it.

Alderman Roy stated the only thing I would ask is how large is the sign going to be.

Mr. Hoben responded it is going to be 24" x 30".

Alderman Roy asked will it do what it needs to do.

Mr. Hoben answered I think it will if you pull up in your car.

Alderman Roy stated the only other request I will make is we just went through the naming of Fisher Cat Stadium as the Merchants Auto.com Stadium and just so everything is represented correctly we might want to tie the names together. I have no problem with this at all.

Alderman O'Neil stated the two gentlemen are here this evening – Mr. Blouin and Mr. Bonardi. They have been pretty, not pretty good but very good businessmen in putting up with a lot of disruption down there and I think anything we can do to make their lives and the lives of their tenants a little easier we should do. They have been down there a long time. I believe they both were relocated from an old redevelopment project way back. They thought they would be down there to retire and here comes the City again with another redevelopment project so we owe something to these two gentlemen. I think we should do everything we can to make sure that their businesses stay successful.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to overtime parking and fine schedule as requested by Chairman Osborne.

Chairman Osborne stated I just want to get the Committee to think about overtime parking. If we can have Kay come up. Carol did you want to reiterate a little bit on this.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated what has been handed out is there is some confusion that has been going on with fines and with parking tickets. If you read the ordinances it gets pretty confusing for people to try and figure out what is going on for parking fines. Alderman Osborne was again asking for some changes to the ordinance and we thought it was a good time to try and pull something together that would kind of make sense for everybody. We talked with Mr. Robinson and with the Police Department and Alderman Osborne earlier tonight. The suggestion is he wants to set a fee for the overtime parking and he can discuss that and speak to that with you but the suggestion is that we have several changes that are pending and if you go through that packet I just gave you there is a table on the top that sort of is like a menu of penalties and after 7 days and on the next page it outlines a bunch of what is basically either in process or currently in the ordinance or suggesting to be proposed or sitting in Bills on Second Reading. As you can see, there are a lot of different numbers out there. What we are trying to do is change the ordinance in such a way that we would have a table in essence so that every section in the ordinance that talks about some parking fine will relate to the parking fine schedule. So if for instance I got an overtime parking ticket it would be PK02 at the \$15. That will say it in the ordinance so if the person comes to the window at Ordinance Violations they have a table there and say this is what it was and that is what it is and it also makes it easier for the Committee if it wants to change prices. We would just change in essence four little letters or numbers in the ordinance and put that through the process so you can move things around a little easier. It becomes clearer on the parking tickets as well because we are trying to also consolidate those as well because we are trying to also consolidate those to be something that fits into the tables easier.

Alderman O'Neil stated Carol I applaud this effort to kind of simplify it on our end but I am thinking about on the unfortunate users end – the recipient. If they are going to mail a check...is this going to be somehow on the parking ticket?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered the parking ticket would still give them a price. The difference would be that if they come to the window at Ordinance Violations and say I don't understand why I got this ticket then they can show them a table and say here is the section and it says right here because if you look at the next two pages of what I gave you the way the current ordinance is listed out...

Alderman O'Neil interjected let's use an example...

Deputy City Clerk Johnson interjected if you use "within an intersection" number 2...

Alderman O'Neil interjected let's do fire hydrant. We are in the process and I don't know where it is and it might be in Bills on Second Reading but we are going to go to \$75 and \$150 I think. If Lt. Valenti writes a ticket for somebody parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant it would say \$75 or after 7 days \$150.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded it would say that but if you look at the ordinance, the last page I handed out on the first column, item 8 says that within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. It doesn't tell the person there what the fee is so if I want to go to the law and look at the law and argue it...that is where it makes it easier.

Alderman O'Neil replied most people don't contend...they just say I got a ticket and I am going to take care of it.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded but some do.

Alderman O'Neil replied I know some do but we don't want to slow up that revenue coming into the City.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the ticket would say the amount.

Alderman O'Neil asked so either the PCO or the police officer would know whatever section it is...if we use fire hydrant I believe we are going to \$75 and \$150 so they would know pay within 7 days it is \$75 and after 7 days it is \$150. Am I correct? They would note that right on the ticket?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered it would be on the ticket yes. Just as a follow-up to that, the fire hydrant that is actually pending says first offense \$50 and second offense \$100. What the Police Department has pointed out is that when they are issuing a ticket they don't know if it is a second offense or not and there is nothing that said they paid the double after the 7 days so we would like to change the ordinance accordingly and put it at the \$50 and \$75, which is really what it is supposed to be because it fits in with the other categories.

Chairman Osborne stated if paid within 7 days.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded right and we would do the same thing with the 5' from a driveway.

Alderman O'Neil asked what are we increasing the fire hydrants to \$50 or \$75. Weren't they already \$50.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered no. They actually were \$20 before.

Alderman O'Neil stated whatever simplifies things.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the idea is to try and put most of them like \$50 and \$75 if you are going to put the \$50 fee and then use whatever you set for overtime today and use the other numbers that are in front of you now.

Chairman Osborne asked do we need a motion on these

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated my suggestion would be that you discuss your overtime parking and decide what you want to set that for and I will just review exactly what you will be setting all of them out for. The numbers are right there.

Chairman Osborne stated I just want to talk to the Committee about the overtime parking. In the downtown area the three-hour parking or two-hour parking of 15-minute parking or 30 minute parking, they seem to abuse this quite a bit. Something has to be done with it as far as...the fines that are out there now are really minimal and they are really taking advantage of the situation and we don't have the enforcement that we should have to do this particular patrolling because of the lack of police officers and PCO's really. We only have one PCO with an automobile and that is Kay and she does her job with booting as well and is pretty well tied up with the booting more so probably than trying to go back every 15 minutes or every two hours or every hour somewhere. What we are doing and what I recommend anyway is to of course increase the non-metered overtime...not so much the metered overtime, that would stay as is and I have spoken with the Solicitor's Office and I guess Mr. Arnold can kind of explain that a little bit as to how we are going to separate the two between metered and non-metered parking.

Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, stated I guess what I would say is we will look at the ordinance and draft a new appropriate section to take care of that if that is the Committee's desire.

Chairman Osborne stated let me just finish. Getting back to that I guess Kay can also give us some input here on the overtime parking in different wards. It is kind of difficult for you to do this isn't it because of all of the other chores you have to do.

Kay replied yes it is. One minute I might be on the West Side and the next minute I might be at the Litchfield line or the Hooksett line. Then I get called to go and remove boots or I have a parking problem or a car blocking a driveway. Just being the single mobile PCO it is hard to do these non-metered time zones by myself but I manage.

Chairman Osborne stated I think the only way we can do it so it is not abused and it gives the other people in those areas that have those signs put there for a reason...I have seen cars parked there for two and three days at a two hour zone. It is sad. I think all we can do here is if they are not out of there within two hours, of course that is not metered but if they aren't out of there in two hours we are going to have to increase the penalty. That is why I wanted to discuss it with the Committee here and let them come up with a figure. I have my ideas but I would rather let you discuss it.

Alderman Long stated just for clarification we are working off of this sheet here. The second offenses we are not considering?

Chairman Osborne responded we have already discussed this in the last meeting.

Alderman Long stated right. We are just going first offense...

Lt. Valenti interjected first offense and the second would be after 7 days.

Alderman Long stated and then the bold italicized are the proposed changes.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated those are changes actually that the Committee has made they just haven't...you are in three different processes here so what we are trying to do is get one ordinance bring it out and get it through. So what Alderman Osborne has referred to this evening is in the second item, the overtime parking, it says \$15. That is what is presently on the books. There have been no recommended changes as of late. He is suggesting to create two separate overtime parking areas. One would be overtime metered parking, which would remain at \$15 and the other would be overtime parking in every other zone, which would be \$30 is what I am understanding and then the \$30 would obviously double up to \$60 after 7 days.

Alderman Roy moved that the overtime parking rates match fine schedule PK05 - \$30 as a basic penalty and \$60 after 7 days.

Chairman Osborne asked are you talking \$50 or \$60.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated he is talking \$30...

Chairman Osborne interjected I know what he is saying. He is talking \$30 for the original and then we want to go \$60 if they don't pay it in 7 days.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is it now.

Lt. Valenti answered \$15 currently.

Alderman Roy stated I do think this is a problem that affects more of our center city neighborhoods so to match fee schedule PK05 I would make that motion.

Alderman Long duly seconded the motion. Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a question for Lt. Valenti. I hate to put him on the spot but I am going to put him on the spot. Can we get a report on...is there any way to track in the Police Department tickets written by the PCO's or police officers in the Traffic Division versus the Patrol Division? I think we put an awful lot of responsibility on the PCO's and on the speed and noise and parking enforcement police officers in the Traffic Division and I think we need some help with the regular route officers in writing tickets. Is that something that could be generated?

Lt. Valenti responded yes we keep track of that daily. Do you want it for 30 days or 60 days?

Alderman O'Neil replied 30 days would be helpful. I don't think anybody questions the work of our PCO's. I think they are doing their job. There are not enough of them. I know I see the officers that work for you in your Division, although they are generally concentrating on speed I have seen them writing tickets for different violations around the City but I do see...people don't show any courtesies any more and they park wherever they feel like it and that is why I support Alderman Osborne's efforts in leading us to get these fines up. People park in front of fire hydrants with no consideration at all and block intersections with no consideration at all. The only way...we can make the penalties anything we want but if there aren't tickets written and the people get a little bite out of it they are going to continue to do it so I think that report would be helpful.

Lt. Valenti stated we could have that report for the next meeting.

Alderman O'Neil responded that would be fine.

Chairman Osborne asked so this would include the 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hour, whatever it might be...this is going to include all non-metered parking.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered it would include all non-metered as I understand it. That is what the recommendation is so yes. The only item that really doesn't fit into the box that we just talked about is the access aisle because you have a first offense and a subsequent of \$50 and \$100 and we don't have \$100 on the table. We would add that in if you want or perhaps you want to reconsider what you are doing on ticketing that. The handicapped parking space access aisle is a \$50 ticket and there is no increase indicated at this point after 7 days. If you want to do it as \$50 and \$75 and drop the subsequent offense for now that would probably make more sense just as we dropped the second offenses in the other one.

Chairman Osborne asked how long has it been this way.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered about a year so you are not going to change the amount. You are just going to give it a 7-day and you are not going to bother with the subsequent offenses because again that is a tracking issue that may present some problems.

Kay stated I was going to recommend that you change the first offense to \$100 because if I pulled up in a handicap van to let somebody out with a wheelchair and you have come up and parked beside me, I can no longer use my wheelchair and this person gets away with \$50 and if Carol comes and parks in the handicapped space she would have to pay \$250.

Lt. Valenti stated just in a regular handicapped spot, the regular spot that Kay is referring to it is a \$250 offense but if you park in an access aisle it is a \$50 offense but it actually has more of an impact when you park in the access aisle because somebody that has a wheelchair van that may have already parked there or is about to park there cannot park there and if they are there they may not even be able to get back into their vehicle.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you folks have a recommendation on that fine.



Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated we can add \$100 into the basic penalty and then put \$150 or \$200 or whatever you want.

Alderman Lopez stated I have two questions.

Alderman O'Neil stated before we lose this thing on the access aisle can we take a motion on that. He is going to go off on something else I think.

Alderman O'Neil moved to increase the penalty for parking in a handicapped access aisle to \$100 and then \$150 after 7 days.

Alderman Roy stated so most of the basic penalties are...like the first one is \$10 and doubled after 7 days to \$20.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded until you hit \$50 and then they change.

Alderman Roy stated right so at \$45 it goes to \$90 then \$50 to \$75 and then it goes back to \$75 and \$150.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I think that was by design of whatever the particular fine was set at. We can...

Alderman Roy interjected we are talking about a serious infraction in my opinion so I fully support the \$100 increase but I would also after 7 days like to see us consistent with the doubling.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated you are not doubling at \$50. If you put it at \$100 and \$150 you actually are being fairly consistent but whatever the pleasure of the Committee is. We will put it at whatever you want.

Alderman Roy stated as long as the first number is \$100 I will vote for it but even when I look at the PK09 \$50 and \$75 after 7 days I...

Deputy City Clerk Johnson interjected that is a lot of your overnight parking.

Alderman Roy stated I somewhat believe that even once you get the ticket and pay it after 7 days it should double because obviously they didn't take the ticket seriously. I just like consistency so I would support Alderman O'Neil's motion. I am going to keep my second there but I would almost prefer that it be consistent and double all the way down the line even if PK13 is double.

Chairman Osborne asked can we keep the discussion on this particular item right now. Is there anybody else that has the same feeling that Alderman Roy has on

making it \$100 and \$200 or do you like \$100 and \$150? How does the Committee feel about that?

Alderman Roy stated I just like the consistency of keeping...after 7 days a \$10 fine goes to \$20 and after 7 days our \$100 fine should go to \$200 and our \$500 fine should go to \$1,000.

Alderman Shea stated I figure that \$100 to \$200 is probably the better way to go.

Alderman O'Neil stated I will amend my motion to \$100 and \$200. Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion. Chairman Roy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Lopez stated I have two questions. The total revenue, is this new revenue that we haven't discussed in Finance?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated you are not really increasing much of anything other than the overtime parking and I guess maybe Lt. Valenti can take a stab at it. The other items that are here are ones that have already been projected I think.

Alderman Lopez replied that is the question I have. The Committee is approving let's say 100% on most of these cases. How much revenue do you get in parking violations now?

Lt. Valenti responded I didn't figure it out. I would need some time to project that.

Alderman Lopez replied but if this is instituted and passes the full Board these will be the new numbers so there have to be additional revenues if you are going to give 100%.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the numbers that are on the sheet that you are looking at...you weren't here for part of the review but the numbers that are showing in bold are numbers that were already in the process. I don't think anyone is clear about whether or not those have already been projected in the budget or not.

Alderman Lopez responded I don't think they have been projected.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I suspect that Lt. Valenti could come back and tell you that.

Alderman Lopez stated well if you could look at that and look at your revenue now and what you are doing here. Forgive me because you must have said this but what is PK13?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied that is just a table that is listing a bunch of amounts that will be referenced back to specific areas like the \$25 that is showing for night parking in bold would actually be showing as a PK04 in the ordinance. That's all.

Alderman Lopez asked \$500 to \$1,000 what is that.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I don't think we have anything out there for that amount at this point.

Chairman Osborne stated some day it might go that high 20 years from now.

Alderman Lopez stated but we must know what PK13 is.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded there isn't. This was a suggested table we just handed out as a sample. It was just a sampling of what you could do and try to make the ordinance easier for reference purposes. It is not anything that is tied to anything specifically in the ordinance at this time. Actually you could remove PK13 because I don't think you have a fine of \$500.

Alderman Lopez stated but you passed this one right.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated they passed it as a table for reference purposes only. There is nothing that says there is a ticket for \$500 existing anywhere in the ordinance. They are using that as a reference point so if they have an expired meter they can say okay as referenced as PK01 in section whatever and when someone comes into Ordinance Violations to argue a ticket they have a better case reference to go by.

Alderman Lopez responded I understand that Carol but when you go from \$45 or \$50 or \$75 in a no parking zone or no parking tow zone from \$50 to \$75 and so on down the line somebody has to figure out how much revenue that is. That is all I am saying. I think Traffic has to tell us what the anticipated revenue is if the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approve this so that we can put that in the Police Department's budget. That's all.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated they can just do a projection and they can give it to the Clerk's Office and we can distribute it to the Aldermen. Would that work?

Chairman Osborne stated we might be able to use that money for another PCO.

Alderman O'Neil stated in my opinion these black bags that we hand out and the intent is supposed to be, for lack of a better term, it has generally been used for tradespeople doing work in downtown buildings, I believe there is some abuse of it because I am seeing regular passenger vehicles using these black bags now and in my opinion it is not for the intended use. Either we need to increase those black bags that go over the meters, the hoods I think they are called and we may want to look at increasing the fines. I think people are taking them out for something other than what the intended use by this Board is. They are not intended to be used as a permanent pass to park on Elm Street or any of the side streets at meters.

Chairman Osborne asked Lt. Valenti or Mr. Hoben how can we police something like that. How long are these black bags usually taken out for.

Mr. Hoben answered some can be for months.

Chairman Osborne asked is it mostly construction.

Mr. Hoben answered yes. We have electricians and painters and plumbers come in for them. We have them fill out a form and fill out an agreement that it is for construction only and tell them to put them on at 6 AM and take them off by 6 PM so it doesn't affect the downtown business.

Chairman Osborne asked Alderman O'Neil is anybody using these bags beyond these hours.

Alderman O'Neil answered I believe so and I believe there is at least one case that I am aware of where it is being used by a passenger vehicle.

Chairman Osborne stated then we should have some sort of penalty for that. After hours we should have some kind of a fine. If you see a black bag past the hour of 6:00, 6:30 or 7 PM, whatever it is, we tag it.

Mr. Hoben stated the Traffic Department has no way of monitoring it.

Chairman Osborne responded not Traffic. I am talking about the Police Department.

Lt. Valenti stated currently there is no communication between Traffic and the Police Department as to where those bags are being placed. Maybe there could be better communication and it might help us.

Alderman O'Neil asked don't they generally go with the vehicle. So a telephone company might use it and a technician might park one day on Elm Street because that is where he can find a parking spot and the next day he may park on Central Street at a meter.

Mr. Hoben stated they list the location of where they are going. We don't tag the vehicle.

Alderman O'Neil responded I can tell you in this particular case that I am aware of it is not at one parking meter. The vehicles move regularly. I don't want to...maybe we can get some information on this but I think it is being abused to be honest with you.

Lt. Valenti replied like I said if there were better communications between the Police Department and Traffic we might be able to look those up.

Alderman O'Neil stated maybe they can get back to us with a list of how many there are, what the fee is and what the penalty is for a future meeting. I don't want to tie that up tonight. I just wanted to bring that up while we are trying to clean up parking issues.

Kay stated I know that a couple of the construction people have called and let us know that people are parking in front of their bags so if they have to leave and get supplies and come back and somebody has parked there we get sent down. Sometimes they forget to take them off at night so we either tag the cars that park there if those bags are left out...

Alderman O'Neil interjected but the bags are not supposed to be left overnight. I think there is some abuse going on with these and maybe for the next meeting it can be an agenda item. What are the fees, how many are out there and what is the penalty for abuse? Maybe we can look at those items.

Chairman Osborne asked can we bring that in.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered yes.

Alderman Lopez stated Alderman O'Neil is absolutely correct. I want to remind the Committee that the parking and the bags will come under the Parking Enterprise and when the new Director takes over you might want to discuss that with him.

Chairman Osborne stated I thought there would be some other...maybe there is some other way we can do this and study this particular situation and get to some kind of a middle ground here with those bags. We can't do it tonight I know that.

Mr. Hoben stated one quick fix that we can start tomorrow is we can fax the permit forms to the Traffic Division of the Police Department so they will have them there. That is an easy fix.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would like to see that list though of what the fee is, how many there are out there and what the penalty is for misusing them.

Mr. Hoben responded I don't believe there is a penalty.

Chairman Osborne stated that is why I said put a penalty behind it.

Alderman O'Neil stated you have me thinking about it.

Chairman Osborne stated well we need a study because some of the contractors might work in the evening as well. Can they do this with the bag and it is only good until what 6:30 or 6 PM?

Mr. Hoben responded I believe it is 6:30 PM. When they fill out the form it is an agreement that they have to remove the bag at night.

Chairman Osborne asked what if they had to go back and finish what they were doing in the evening. Say they come back at 7 PM and work until 9 PM. Can they use that bag?

Mr. Hoben answered they know up front that they are supposed to take the bags off. We verbally tell them and it is on the form.

Chairman Osborne stated so maybe we need some sort of penalty for that then like I said. We can't do this this evening for sure.

Alderman Long asked on the form does the form have the meter number they are going to be using.

Mr. Hoben answered they put down a location.

Alderman Long asked like a street.

Mr. Hoben answered yes because sometimes the meters...we tell them to go in at 6 AM and bag the meter but he might not get the one that he wants.

Alderman Long asked all of these bags are numbered so we know how many bags we have out there

Mr. Hoben answered yes.

Alderman Long asked or how many bags we have period.

Mr. Hoben answered we know how many are out there right now.

Alderman Long asked are there any businesses that use these bags for their business.

Mr. Hoben answered it is only construction.

Alderman Shea asked is there a date that they can use it from. In other words say April 1 through April 30 or May 2 through May 20?

Mr. Hoben answered typically they come in one or two days mostly. Some go longer than that if it is a long project. It is open-ended. It is Monday through Friday. They are not allowed to use them on the weekends.

Alderman Shea stated but is it like Monday through Friday for one week or four weeks or two weeks. Is there any expiration date?

Mr. Hoben replied no we let them run and when they are done with the bag they bring it back in. We tally up how many days and charge them.

Alderman Shea responded so what you are saying is they make the decision as far as how long they are going to use the bag.

Mr. Hoben replied that is correct.

Alderman Shea stated maybe there should be some stipulation in terms of them coming in and renewing the bags because if that were the case then obviously in this instance that Alderman O'Neil is quoting somebody has probably been using it for the last couple of months or maybe even longer than that. They might have had a bag for the last year.

Mr. Hoben stated we could install a maximum term on the bags and have a renewal period.

Chairman Osborne asked are these bags used for commercial vehicles or are they used for their own private cars.

Mr. Hoben answered it is mostly for the commercial vehicles.

Chairman Osborne asked do you issue any of these bags for private cars.

Mr. Hoben answered we have in the past.

Chairman Osborne stated maybe we should restrict it to the commercial end of it rather than private vehicles. I guess they can always find a parking space somewhere. There is no end here. All of the workers are there – if there are 25 workers are you going to give them 25 black bags and tie up all of Elm Street or what and then the merchants on Elm Street have to suffer with this as well.

Alderman O'Neil stated if we get all of the information it will be a good topic for the next meeting.

Chairman Osborne replied I am sure it will be. Okay let's do that so we can wrap it up here.

Alderman Roy stated before you go Lt. Valenti, there are 28 revenue line items for Police. Can you kind of pull those from your administration and maybe give us a highlight of expired meters is the largest but there are others like district court fines, violations, first offenses, booting fines...just kind of give us a breakdown of where some of the handicapped parking and where the traffic violations fit into the revenues for the Police Department. Budget season time is of the essence. Thank you.

### **TABLED ITEMS**

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to remove Item 8 from the agenda:

Discussion relating to police details as it relates to construction and/or nightclub details as requested by Alderman O'Neil.  
*(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending report from Police Department.)*

Alderman O'Neil stated I bring this up because I have a concern about the Police Department being able to fill nightclub details. I thought it kind of died down until I read a week or so ago in the paper that there was a gentleman assaulted at an infamous nightclub in the City of Manchester and I thought if the paper was



correct there was no officer there that night because they couldn't fill the detail. I don't know if Lt. Valenti can...I don't want to put him on the spot.

Lt. Valenti responded I believe you are correct. There was no detail.

Alderman O'Neil stated this is a very serious issue as far as I am concerned. I would like to see the department and maybe Lt. Valenti can take it back to his colleagues to come back with some recommendation to make sure that the nightclub details are filled. If an officer was there it may or may not have prevented the incident from happening or may have prevented it from escalating to the state it did but if you recall a gentleman was in the paper and he was pretty well beat up and he got beat up in the club and outside the club and there was no police officer on duty. If we need to raise the rate for police officers to take these details as I said previously I have had police officers tell me if I have four hours left of overtime to work in a week and I have to make a decision to go and work at one of the nightclubs or work with the telephone company he said it is a pretty easy decision to make for the same money. I don't know if you need a motion.

Chairman Osborne replied I don't think so. I think they can get the information to us.

Alderman O'Neil stated this is a very serious issue.

Alderman Shea stated I agree. When somebody serves nightclub duty would they be responsible for paying the officer's detail? Is that what we are saying?

Lt. Valenti responded private detail yes.

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to put this item back on the table.

9. Discussion relating to coordination of services and utilities during storm events such as what occurred on February 10, 2006 as requested by Alderman O'Neil.  
*(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending report from Fire and Police Departments.)*

Alderman O'Neil stated I believe Chief Kane is leading the efforts with Chief Jaskolka on this item and my guess is with this past weekend it might lead to some more changes in the coordination so we will leave that on the table.

10. Communication from Karl Stone, Fisher Cats Corporate Controller, requesting 12 additional parking spaces to be located behind right field on South Commercial Street extension for press usage.

*(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending review by Highway and Traffic Departments.)*

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to remove Item 10 from the table.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I just wanted to comment before the Police Department leaves that that table that you saw for parking was actually created in Ordinance Violations and it was the Police Department's idea, not the Clerk's idea.

Frank Thomas, Public Works Director, stated there is a request by the Fisher Cats to park 12 cars along South Commercial Street. That request was reviewed by ourselves, along with Traffic and the Police Department. To briefly summarize, when the stadium was being proposed, the stadium team's architect and engineer proposed a narrower roadway in that area to be able to fit in between the rear exit of the stadium. That is not a standard roadway, however, we did agree to approve that design for the roadway under the condition that there would be no parking along that section of roadway. To date, we have not permitted parking along that section of road and we recommend that the Committee deny this request. If there is parking on that roadway, because it is the only real means of access to the back of the stadium and the condominium development there will be a chance that cars will be parked out there when emergency vehicles are trying to get down there. In addition, as I mentioned it was a condition of granting and approving the design standard that they used.

Chairman Osborne asked what was their main reason for these 12 spaces anyway.

Mr. Thomas answered they wanted to provide 12 spaces to the media. Let me just add to that during the design phase there was supposed to be media parking to the south of the stadium.

Alderman O'Neil asked what would the normal City street in that location be in width and do you happen to know what the width of this is.

Mr. Thomas answered we would recommend that that section of Commercial Street be built at least 36' wide to accommodate parking on the side. Most City streets that exist are approximately 30' wide. In this particular case I believe it is like 28' wide.

Alderman Shea stated Frank you mentioned that there was allowable parking for the press in another section of the ballpark area.

Mr. Thomas responded during the design of the stadium complex there was discussion about media parking behind the stadium on the West Side.

Alderman Shea stated I took a trip down there and there is plenty of room in back of the stadium. I am not sure if they use that area. I know when the ball players go out of town they leave their cars there and there are several places there that could be used.

Alderman Shea moved to receive and file. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated while I have no problem with the receive and file on the 12 spaces along South Commercial Street for safety reasons, the second request regarding the 19 meter bags for South Commercial Street, has that been...

Alderman O'Neil interjected we have already done that I believe.

Alderman Roy stated I was just confirming that. I remember that it was done but I wanted to confirm that.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

11. Parking Study Recommendations  
(*Tabled 04/18/2006*)

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee